

# THE FAVERSHAM SOCIETY

## *Annual Report to Members*

Number 53, 2015

President Richard Oldfield



*A Faversham trade token issued by John Bele, 1649  
from the museum collection*



The Faversham Society (company limited by guarantee)  
10-13 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NS  
Charity No 1135262, Company No 7112241

## **Key People**

### **President**

Richard Oldfield

### **Vice-presidents**

Mrs Jenifer Parry, MSc, RN, NDN, NP

John Culmer

Jacqie Hitchcock

Dr Patricia Hyde, MA MLitt (deceased 2015)

Sir Roger Moate

Margaret Slythe, MA FCILIP PGCE (from July 2015)

## **Board of Trustees**

(from April 2015)

### **Officers**

Mike Frohnsdorff (chairman)

Brian Kelsey (treasurer)

Clive Foreman (vice chairman)

Brian Wintle Smith (vice chairman)

Jan West (secretary)

### **Members**

Anni Bales (resigned November 2015)

Ian Balding

Ted Davis

Roger Ely

Harold Goodwin

John Owen

Anne Salmon

Hilary Whelan

Heather Wootton

Chris Wright

NB for the sake of equality, no professional or other qualifications are quoted for the members of the Board of Trustees.

**Solicitors**

Parry Law  
144-146 High Street, Herne Bay

**Auditors**

MHA MacIntyre Hudson  
31 St George's Place, Canterbury

**Maison Dieu Trustees**

Rev. Tracey Bateson (Chair)\*, Rev Simon Rowlands\*,  
Rev Penny Fenton (Chair of Trustees Building Group),  
Michael Frohnsdorff, Gene Regan, Ted Davis, Tony Wheatley\*,  
Roger Bennett\*, Ann Wilkinson (Hon. Curator) and Jonathan  
Carey\*;

\*part of year

**Faversham Society representation on other bodies:**

**Kent History Federation representative:** Dr Charles Turner

**Faversham Area Tourism Association:** Pam McLean

**Kent Museums Group:** Rod Morley

**Swale Museums Group:** Rod Morley

**FTC Magna Carta Committee:** Clive Foreman

**Faversham Historians**

**Chairman:** John Owen

**Meetings Secretary:** Anne Salmon

## **The Objects of the Faversham Society**

To educate and inform the public in the geography, history, natural history, arts and architecture of Faversham and the surrounding area.

To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in Faversham and the surrounding area.

To preserve for the people of Faversham, of the surrounding area, and of the Nation, the historical, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in and around Faversham in buildings and structures (including any building defined in Section 336 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990) of particular beauty or of historical, architectural or constructional interest.

To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting Faversham and the surrounding area.

## **Chairman's Review 2015**

As members will be aware the Annual General Meeting for 2015 was postponed from April to July to enable further work to be done on the 2010 Constitution, which was adopted when the Society became a Company Limited by Guarantee. The changes involved will be presented to a Special General Meeting of the Society early in 2016 and should come into force during 2016.

At the Annual General Meeting in July several trustees retired. We thus lost the services at Board level of Pamela McLean, Paul Moorbath, John O'Kill and Graham Robinson, and I would like to thank them for their years of service to the Board. I believe they will continue to fulfil other important roles within the Society. In their place we were pleased to welcome Roger Ely, Hilary Whelan, Heather Wootton and Christopher Wright as trustees. Subsequently Ian Balding, who had nobly spent four years in the thankless task of Membership Secretary, stepped down from the post, though he remained as a trustee. He deserves our gratitude for the dedication and expertise he brought to the job. I am pleased to say that Jasmine Patience has agreed to take over the post, and, thanks to her great efforts, and those of Ian before her, our membership is once again nearing its peak of 1250.

The Society was able to put on an excellent programme of events throughout the year. The organisers of the Open Gardens and Open House schemes excelled themselves and raised large sums for the Society. "Open Gardens" was featured on the B.B.C. During the Autumn members of the new Environment Committee organised two events in the Fleur Hall, "Hopping in Kent" and a talk by James Freeman, Swale Planning Officer, on "Bearing Fruits". Both were well attended.

Jacquie Hitchcock arranged a series of monthly talks in the Hall and some were particularly memorable. We held a successful evening for new members in August and a Christmas evening for volunteers with an entertainment from Andrew Spiers involving the Peninsular War. Our thanks go to everyone who organised and participated in these events.

The Society made submissions to the Creek Neighbourhood Plan and we had several representatives at the public hearing before the appointed examiner at the Alexander Centre in October, led by Dr. Patricia Reid, who made an impressive address. The Society, through its Planning and Environment Committees, has been keeping a close watch on proposed developments and planning applications within our area

and challenging several which were thought to be unacceptable. We have been monitoring other possible threats to our environment.

One of our proudest achievements has been to have the accreditation of our museum renewed for a further three years. Our thanks go to Clive Foreman, assisted by John Harrison, for their hard work in gaining this honour for us, which few museums of our size have gained. We also have established a Museum Committee, which now monitors and plans the running of the museum and the exhibitions for the future. The exhibitions in the Gallery have attracted widespread attention.

Our Visitor Information Centre continues to prosper under the excellent leadership of Christine Smith and her team of helpers, while in the Charity Bookshop we now have a new management team to replace Jenifer Parry and John O'Kill, whose past efforts and dedication are much appreciated. We were sad to see Colin and Jenifer Parry say their farewells after many years of dedicated service to the Society. They are now comfortably settled in Stockport.

Many of our meagre resources have to be spent on repairs to our ancient buildings, and the condition of the roofs have caused emergency work to be undertaken. However, with the aid of a number of grants, obtained by the indefatigable Margaret Slythe, we now have a new computer network, worthy of the Society, and our data collection and preservation, as well as our security will benefit greatly as a result.

Every day the Fleur is a hive of industry and I would like to thank all the volunteers who give up so much time to ensure that the society continues to be so successful, as well as to the trustees and officers whose efforts are dedicated to running the society so efficiently.

We must not, however, be complacent. We have not been able to replace the learning manager, who we were able to appoint as part of the last Heritage Lottery Grant, and we need now to inaugurate a more rigorous and comprehensive education programme. We need more attractions to ensure a continuing stream of visitors to the Museum. We are establishing a team to deliver a greater range of cultural activities, as well as speakers and social events. We hope, by this means, to increase our funds to help maintain, and, where necessary, modernise the old buildings and equipment we have inherited.

Finally we must always be aware of the aims for which the Society was founded and ensure that our members and the people of Faversham

and the villages can trust us as the wardens and protectors of their environment.

Michael Frohnsdorff

## **OBITUARIES**

The Faversham Society offers its condolences to the families and friends of all those members who passed away during the year.

In particular we remember **Mary Munday**, a long term member of the Society, who died in October 2015 in Cooksditch nursing home. Mary was known to us in recent years as the person in charge of the Print Room, a mere cubbyhole before the expansion of our property late in the 1990s. But her career with us started in May 1973, when she duplicated the earliest ventures into publishing at Peter Hutley-Bulls' home in Newton Street. As technology changed, Mary kept pace, and she was able to pass on her acquired skills when she decided to retire. We still recall the sound of the operas she loved to listen to as she worked. Her commitments were not limited to our society; she was also treasurer of the Faversham Townswomen's Guild and Secretary of the Management Committee of the Faversham Umbrella Centre.

Two well respected members of the Faversham Historians Group died during the year:

**Patricia Hyde**, who was a member of the Faversham Society for many years, died in her sleep on 27th July 2015. In conjunction with Duncan Harrington she made a major contribution to the publication and explanation of many of the town records. Up to 1996 she represented the Society at meetings of the Kent History Federation.

Patricia fell in love with history as an eleven-year-old schoolgirl and devoted much of her life to its study. In the 1970s she became interested in a project set up by Professor Peter Clarke of Leicester about the development of small towns in the early modern period and began to delve into the history of Faversham. She thought it sounded an interesting place and had endless records. Patricia joined the

Faversham Historians group when they first met under the chairmanship of Professor Theo Barker in 1989.

The first publication emerging from her interest in Faversham was an article in the 1985 edition of *Archaeologia Cantiana* on 'Henry Hatch and the Battle over his Will', the controversy that did so much to shape the modern town of Faversham. It was about this time that Patricia met up with Duncan Harrington whilst they were both working at Canterbury Cathedral Archives, a collaboration that continued until recently. In 1993, the Faversham Society published a *Faversham and District Bibliography*, her work on Primary and Secondary Sources for the town. Then followed Faversham Paper no. 45, *Faversham Ships and Seamen in the sixteenth Century*. Next was an epic tome published by the Faversham Society on *Thomas Arden; the man behind the myth* (1996).

Patricia's next joint publication with Harrington was the Faversham Hundred Records:

Vol. 1. Microfiches which provided a catalogue of thousands of records relating to the Hundred of Faversham (now superseded by volume 5);

Vol. 2. *Hearth Tax returns for Faversham Hundred 1662-1674*: with supporting documents (1998);

Vol. 3. *Faversham Tudor and Stuart Muster Rolls* (2000);

Vol. 4. *Faversham Oyster Fishery: Through Eleven Centuries* (2002);

Vol. 5. *Faversham Hundred Rentals on CD* (2008).

2002 also saw the publication of a joint article in *Archaeologia Cantiana* on 'Faversham's Role in the Armada and Counter-Armada', an appendix of which, 'Faversham's Assessment for a Ship for the Counter Armada of 1596', appeared in *KAS Kent Records New Series* Vol. 3 part 6. In the same series, parts 7-9 (2002), abstracts and transcripts of Faversham Fines relating to properties in the town were published. Another joint article on 'Faversham Mayors and their right to the court hall; a little mystery solved' appeared in *Archaeologia Cantiana* CXXXIV.

*The Early Town Books of Faversham c. 1251 to 1581* (2008) was one of the more ambitious projects.

Finally, November 2014 saw the last joint publication with Duncan Harrington of *Faversham Abbey, Collections towards a history*.

Our condolences are extended to her daughter Susannah, her son-in-law and five granddaughters.



(Clive Foreman, based on the original text provided by Duncan Harrington, 30 July 2015)

**Jack Long** passed away in November after a long fight against illness. Jack worked for many years on the life of William of Ypres, King Stephen's Flemish favourite, and his work is now ready for editing prior to publication. He was also prominent in the music industry, and has left us his beautiful composition *Seven Prayers for King Stephen*, completed only a few weeks before his death.

## **Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2015.**

Another year of successful trading and fundraising has resulted in a small surplus of £5k, and a surplus on Unrestricted Funds of £79k, so the Society has maintained the statutory target laid down by its Reserves policy (at least six months' core expenditure).

The trustees propose to adhere to the principles of proper budgetary control and financial management in 2016 and future years in order to provide a firm financial basis for the continuance of the conservation and education work of the Society.

There is one new project within Restricted Funds – to update completely the Society's IT and computer systems in order to be abreast of all the latest developments in communications and social media. The reconstruction of No 12 Preston Street is complete, save for £20k remaining to fund outstanding items which formed part of the overall project. The Trustees acknowledge with thanks further grants and donations to the Society from: John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust, Faversham Town Council, Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council, and the Wheler Foundation.

Brian Kelsey BA FCA, Hon. Treasurer.

**Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

|                                  | 31/12/2015<br>£ | 31/12/2014<br>£ |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>              |                 |                 |
| Land & Buildings at valuation    | 564,685         | 572,542         |
| <b>Current Assets</b>            |                 |                 |
| Bank balances, restricted funds  | 70,906          | 77,815          |
| Bank balance, unrestricted funds | 79,485          | 79,044          |
| Stock                            | <u>12,747</u>   | <u>15,146</u>   |
|                                  | 163,138         | 172,005         |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>       |                 |                 |
| Creditors                        | <u>402</u>      | <u>15,326</u>   |
| <b>Net Current Assets</b>        | <u>162,736</u>  | <u>156,679</u>  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                | <u>727,421</u>  | <u>729,221</u>  |
| <b>Represented by:</b>           |                 |                 |
| <b>Funds</b>                     |                 |                 |
| Restricted Funds                 | 70,906          | 77,815          |
| Unrestricted Funds               | <u>656,515</u>  | <u>651,406</u>  |
| <b>Total Funds</b>               | <u>727,421</u>  | <u>729,221</u>  |

Note: These accounts are subject to independent review

## Income and Expenditure Account

|                              | 2015<br>£            | 2014<br>£            |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                |                      |                      |
| Member subscriptions         | 11,727               | 10,113               |
| Rents Received               | 13,217               | 10,447               |
| Interest receivable          | 1,000                | 1,660                |
| Museum entry & sales         | 7,031                | 6,639                |
| VIC and Shops:               |                      |                      |
| New books & publications     | 20,272               | 20,308               |
| Gifts, cards etc.            | 10,429               | 8,304                |
| Secondhand books             | 10,631               | 8,764                |
| Fundraising (net) :          |                      |                      |
| Open Houses                  | 3,144                | 3,785                |
| Secret Gardens               | 5,106                | 3,833                |
| Walks, events etc.           | 3,401                | 3,422                |
| Swale Grant (VIC)            | 3,600                | 3,600                |
| Donations, legacies & grants | <u>4,678</u>         | <u>7,744</u>         |
| <b>Total Income</b>          | <b><u>94,236</u></b> | <b><u>88,619</u></b> |

|   | 2015<br>£            | 2014<br>£             |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                    |                      |                       |
| Premises Costs:                                       |                      |                       |
| Rent and rates  | 5,435                | 5,923                 |
| Insurance   | 8,585                | 8,457                 |
| Light and heat  | 9,455                | 10,826                |
| Repairs & maintenance                                 | 16,679               | 7,855                 |
| Security  | 1,064                | 1,344                 |
| Museum costs  | 2,030                | 1,816                 |
| VIC and shops:  |                      |                       |
| New books and publications                            | 10,472               | 12,651                |
| Gifts, cards etc.                                     | 4,380                | 4,253                 |
| Overheads:  |                      |                       |
| Printer and copier rental                             | 15,059               | 14,176                |
| Telephone and postage                                 | 3,259                | 8,459                 |
| Computer costs  | 577                  | 1,648                 |
| Advertising and promotion                             | 930                  | 1,390                 |
| Subscriptions and donations                           | 1,054                | 2,040                 |
| Legal costs:  |                      |                       |
| Independent review                                    | 1,248                | 984                   |
| Bank charges  | <u>1,043</u>         | <u>1,014</u>          |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                              | <b><u>81,270</u></b> | <b><u>82,836</u></b>  |
| <b>CASH SURPLUS</b>                                   | 12,966               | 5,783                 |
| Depreciation  | <u>7,857</u>         | <u>7,857</u>          |
| <b>TRADING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)<br/>Of General Funds</b> | <b><u>5,109</u></b>  | <b><u>(2,074)</u></b> |

Restricted Funds

| <b>Project</b>           | <b>Balance<br/>31/12/2014<br/>£</b> | <b>Funds in<br/>£</b> | <b>Expenditure<br/>£</b> | <b>Balance<br/>31/12/2015<br/>£</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Land Fund</b>         | 45,125                              | 600                   | 0                        | 45,725                              |
| <b>Arden's House</b>     | 371                                 | 0                     | 0                        | 371                                 |
| <b>Panel Restoration</b> | 1,000                               | 0                     | 0                        | 1,000                               |
| <b>Fire Pump</b>         | 1,750                               | 0                     | 0                        | 1,750                               |
| <b>No. 12 Project</b>    | 25,569                              | 2,000                 | 7,573                    | 19,996                              |
| <b>IT Fund</b>           | <u>4,000</u>                        | <u>6,750</u>          | <u>8,686</u>             | <u>2,064</u>                        |
| <b>Total</b>             | <u>77,815</u>                       | <u>9,350</u>          | <u>16,259</u>            | <u>70,906</u>                       |

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

Please note that the following reports are edited versions of originals. Any errors or omissions that may have arisen from this process are entirely the responsibility of the Editor, who apologises in advance should any misunderstandings arise.

### **Membership – Jasmine Patience**

I was appointed as Membership Secretary on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015 following some weeks as assistant to Ian Balding, the previous Membership Secretary.

128 new members were welcomed to the Society during the year, the majority living in Faversham but some also from Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex. The total at the end of 2015 was 1,280.

New processes and systems were put in place including:

- Updating the database with more detailed information and requests for members' information annually to ensure that details remain accurate.
- Membership Application, Renewal, Gift Aid and Standing Order forms were updated.
- New IT systems including an efficient method of sending emailed Newsletters and notices at no cost to the Society.
- Working closely with the Newsletter Delivery Co-Ordination Team to provide good service to members.
- The implementation of emailed subscription Reminders and Renewal forms, and the hand-delivery of paper renewals and membership cards with the Newsletters all saving the Society several hundred pounds per year.

All these systems are working well.

Being available on a regular basis to meet members and discuss membership requirements has been very positive and successful, and the feedback from members has been invaluable in planning for the future.

Thank you to all members and volunteers for your continued support.

## **Operational Management Committee – Joanne Wintle Smith**

The Operational Management Committee, consisting of team leaders and personnel from the various aspects of the Society, met monthly throughout 2015 to deal with the day to day operational matters within the Society.

The Committee has been fortunate in that membership has remained pretty stable throughout the year with just a few slight changes. In light of the areas of responsibility assigned to the newly established Museum Committee, under the chairmanship of Heather Wootton, oversight of the operational aspects of both the Maison Dieu and Chart Mills has moved there; Jenny Parry's decision to move closer to her extended family in the north left a void in the Second Hand Bookshop which Wendy Clarke agreed to fill as the new team leader and with the resignation of Ian Balding as membership secretary mid way through the year the luck of the Society held good and we are grateful to Jasmine Patience for stepping in to fill that daunting role.

The Terms of Reference of the OMC are: to monitor and review the day to day activities of the Society in order to promote efficiency and effectiveness; to assess and monitor individual projects in order to ensure co-ordination with all relevant bodies, in particular the Marketing Committee; to avoid activity clashes and to assess/control requests for expenditure from section heads and project leaders. Additionally, to request/receive reports or representation as deemed appropriate. This work continues.

Members will find reports from the various sections of the organisation elsewhere within this document. Those reports refer to matters such as publications, volunteers, health and safety, property maintenance and many more that have been subject to consideration and debate at OMC during the past year in order to facilitate and ensure the smooth and safe running of the complex.

The ongoing commitment of our many volunteers who continue to carry on year after year in support of the Society by raising funds, maintaining the ageing property, selling goods, ensuring systems and displays are kept in good working order, advising visitors to the town, paying bills (the list goes on and on) deserves the grateful thanks of us all.



## **Building Maintenance & Health and Safety - Jan West**

2015 has seen major expenditure on the complex with repair work being carried out on the many roofs that the complex has. In addition a listing brick wall adjoining the small car park at the rear of the premises had to be rebuilt again costly as were repairs to the Society's ageing central heating boilers and replacement external emergency lighting units. The Big Shed roof decided to leak in numerous places during the year and now needs major work on it and it is hoped that funding can be found for that and also for internal decorations to the Fleur Hall. Weekly fire alarm testing has been carried out and I would like to thank those volunteers who have assisted. Also thanks must be recorded to Mike Nicholls for his numerous and often difficult negotiations with our utility suppliers, Barry Wagstaff and Jackie Davidson for taking over the PAT testing, Chris Oswald Jones, Sid Stringer and Brian Wintle Smith (and anyone I've unfortunately forgotten) for undertaking little jobs and often not so little jobs around the complex. As we all know to call out contractors for little jobs can be hugely expensive so I am always grateful if a repair can be done in house.

## **Marketing Committee - Jan West**

Discussion regarding the promotion of the Visitor Information Centre, our annual events, Town walks, Kentish bookshop, museum, gallery and the second hand bookshop have taken place monthly during the year by the small marketing committee. The committee has, this year, been joined by Rachel Baynton and Hilary Whelan and we are grateful for their input and enthusiasm. We are also grateful to Ian Balding for his suggestion of manning several market stalls during 2015 which has raised the profile of the Society and also brought some new members.

The committee has also attempted to take a more strategic approach to marketing the Societies activities and to obtain a clearer view of what the Society is trying to achieve. Its work still in progress!

## **Newsletter – Stephen Rayner**

The newsletter continues but this has been a year of little progress. We are still feeling the loss (who is not?) of Arthur Percival, whose contributions to the newsletter have not (cannot, most would say) be replicated. As a result, the newsletter has lost much of its joie de vivre. My appeal last year for somebody to contribute a history and photographic quiz has gone unanswered, so I repeat it now. Anyone?

My thanks go to print supremo Patsy Rogers for her work. The photocopiers are awkward beasts and I wish they would do a better job – the colour has been disappointing and although it seems a retrospect move, I may well abandon it for monochrome. However, there is much to be positive about – I received many interesting items for publication. At the top of the tree, I felt, were Mike Frohnsdorff's revelations about Faversham Abbey and the Maison Dieu, Colin Parry's series on Magna Carta heraldry, and Dorothy Percival's whimsical pieces, including the tale of how Arthur managed not to blow himself to kingdom come. Thanks to them and to all those who contributed – keep them coming. And dates for the diary, too.

We are a world-class heritage organisation and I strive to make it a world-class newsletter ... but cannot do so without your help.

### **IT Support Group - Heather Wootton**

The Group meets formally every month and in between holds a technical "hands-on" session. This is the group's second year and again we have again been very busy and have grown. We liaise with Trustees, OMC, Marketing, Museum Committee, Website User Group and new Printer sub-group.

In last year's annual report we thanked Margaret Slythe for her work getting grants for us, this year we have spent the majority of the funds. Within the Curator's office the new network is taking shape, there is a new server with a UPS (a device to prevent the server failing should the power become unavailable), a new Router and 5 new Mini Mac computers each with a new mouse and keyboard. Guides have been written and placed by each new machine. The Broadband signals have been extended much further in the Heritage Centre and a "guest" account has been created; this allows visitors to use the Broadband but not have access to our data. More work is needed to move all relevant data to the server and gain more experience in managing the network and we are grateful to members of the group who have spent time "troubleshooting" the new network.

Older equipment has been refreshed, thus placing the older PCs on an additional 2 desks in the Curator's Office and one in the inner curator's office, thus there are now 8 workstations available.

Following the expansion of the Broadband the Second-Hand Bookshop have been provided with a donated laptop for searching the internet for

book pricing etc.

The group supported Paul Moorbath when he started to produce the new Volunteer Bulletin.

The Family History Computer is now supported by the group but has had a low level of interest from visitors to the Museum, hopefully this will be addressed in 2016.

The Website User Group now manage the Society website and report to OMC - they keep the IT Group informed.

A new sub-group has started to look at options for how the Society prints material in the future, this group is liaising with the Publications group.

We must thank Lucia for all her work on Facebook and Twitter throughout the year. We also welcome Alan Wood who has joined the group this year and has provided invaluable advice and time.

### **Fundraising – Margaret Slythe**

2015 has been a different year for many of us. Major advances have been made throughout the Fleur and the re-accreditation of the museum has been well deserved. But the loss of Arthur Percival has had a profound effect on the daily contact and encyclopaedic knowledge which he provided, for the Society and far beyond. He read insatiably all things heritage and sent abstracts and comments to many of us constantly. In fundraising terms, many of our faithful donors, sensing that there would be inevitable changes, expressed doubts that the Fleur would sustain without him. So many of our members and volunteers are to be thanked profoundly for ensuring that it does.

Members will be aware that many local museums throughout the country are changing status or putting their collections into store. The charge for admission to the museum for non-members, and for other events, may have been a barrier to larger audiences but this has encouraged our regular donors to acknowledge the focus and concern of the Faversham Society's management and organisers of events. Mention will be made in the financial report of the annual support of the John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust and at town, borough and county level. Once again

Swale BC has offered small heritage grants in acknowledgement of the numbers of visitors generated through tourism.

One significant element of the last Heritage Lottery Grant remains to be done, a World War 1 Arts project, entitled *Faversham in WW1 – Localisation and Legacy*. This will begin in 2016. Six professional artists will be invited to produce multi-media work, led by arts consultant Christine Gist, who worked with us on the successful *Vanishing Shore* project. Supported by the Ernest Cook Charitable Trust, the Fleur Gallery is booked for August 2016 for an introduction to the project.

### **Visitor Information Centre - Christine Smith**

For some time we have been working towards recognition as a Visitor Information Centre rather than the more limited Tourist Information Centre and this year the new sign outside the shop tells us that we have achieved that goal. But this isn't just a name. In truth we do deal with enquiries from all-comers, whether they be from Nova Scotia, Spain or from just down the road in Teynham.

Perhaps the most exciting event this year, which had a knock-on effect on the VIC, was the excellent Magna Carta exhibition held at the Alexander Centre. For six weeks from the middle of May to the end of June we saw our footfall increased as the public arrived in their droves to the town to indulge in part of our important history. We had a successful reciprocal arrangement with the organisers of the exhibition whereby we sold some of their merchandise and they sold some of ours. This six week period culminated in the Society's splendid Open Gardens event at the end of June, followed by yet another successful Open Houses event in July – still a crowd pleaser even in its 45<sup>th</sup> year.

We have extended our stocks of china to include items depicting seagulls, anchors and seahorses and these have proved popular despite not having the exclusivity we enjoy with the hop design. Faversham, after all, isn't just famous for its beer making and the nautical theme seems appropriate.

The 2016 calendar was again a resounding success and this year we have extended our range of greetings cards to include watercolour prints by local artists and those depicting scenes and buildings of Faversham in a graphic style, produced by a local supplier. It seems that the public

like to send their relatives and friends a Christmas card that is exclusive to Faversham because we sold some 400 of them this year.

By the middle of the year we were bereft of our best selling book 'Faversham Through Time' which had gone out of print but happily, following some lobbying, I can report that it has been reincarnated in the form of a reprint and is back on our stock shelves.

I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to all the volunteers who give their time to enable the shop to remain open seven days a week and whose aim is to support the Society and to satisfy the customers' needs. We said goodbye to some of them this year and gained others and they are all named elsewhere in this Annual Report.

### **Second Hand Book shop - Wendy Clarke**

The bookshop has seen many changes since the last report. Jenny left in September with our best wishes for the future and sincere appreciation and thanks for all her years of hard work and dedication. I then took over together with Anthea Nicholls and Genevieve Ellis – a “trifeminate” as Diane calls us – a team leading a team. John O’Kill also retired after many years of valuable help and support.

We have been pleased to welcome a few new volunteers and now have a solid and enthusiastic team, although there is still room for more.

The main thing to report is that takings remain a considerable source of income and are even increasing - December was our highest total to date - and we are striving to maintain that.

We have now increased publicity with flyers and posters in the town and we make a point of changing the displays weekly to expose more stock, especially the window display which in part now relates to selected themes plus national and local events. We have also started selling some rarer or more esoteric titles on the Internet with some interesting results and this success continues to boost funds.

A few new bookcases have been added to house more books and we continue to stock a very wide range of subjects with many unusual volumes, thanks to the valuable donations which have been increasing lately.

Thank you to all members of the team for their reliability and support.

The bookshop remains a quirky and individual corner of Faversham. We all love it and I think many of our customers do too - only this week one said "I don't know what I'd do without this place; it's not just a bookshop!"

### **Fleur Hall - Linda Ireland**

Block bookings remain constant and it is encouraging that the hall is being used for "one off" luncheon parties and evening birthday celebrations. Clients have been finding us via the Faversham.org website.

The carpet has been cleaned and the piano tuned. However, it is essential that the hall is painted internally before it becomes too shabby. There will be a slight increase in hall tariff for 2016.

### **Open House - Moyra Harding**

We had another successful year with 36 properties including seven new ones, which proved very popular with local visitors, and 2 which returned from a brief break.

We recorded around 5,100 visits compared to 4,000 last year. Our profit was slightly down on last year (£3,282.45 compared to £3,785) but this was partly due to a discount on entry to properties for groups of 2 or more. Income from the advertisements in the handbook, which was organised jointly with Open Gardens, was £1,270.

As usual, we received very positive feedback from our stewards, owners and visitors which is very encouraging.

Sylvie Jones who has organized the stewards for many years has decided to retire and I'd like to thank her on behalf of the Open House Committee and the Society for her hard work and dedication. She will be missed by us all. Our appreciation and thanks also go to the 72 stewards for their help and support.

John Owen and Jonathan Carey were very helpful in providing historical and architectural information for some of our new houses. Thanks also to Helen Albery for producing a very professional handbook and for organizing the advertisements; Chris and Annette Brooke-Taylor for assisting Sylvie; Christine Smith and the VIC volunteers; and for the generosity of property owners and managers, Town Councillors and staff who welcomed our visitors.

## **Faversham Open Garden and Garden Market Day - Lucie Neame**

Some 33 private and community gardens were opened to the public again for Faversham Open Gardens and Garden Market Day on Sunday 28 June 2015. Under sunny skies and in perfect gardening visiting temperatures over 1,000 visitors from Kent and as well as Essex, London and Sussex flooded into Faversham and, on foot and bike, visited gardens ranging from large and formal to small and contemporary, from a tiny colourful plot to an urban meadow. A private garden in Athelstan Road that three months before had been a large muddy puddle and still in the planning stage, on the day attracted hundreds of visitors and looked both stunning and established.

Along with 25 private residential gardens, the Abbey School and Ethelbert Road Primary School opened their gardens to garden lovers, along with community gardens Abel's Acre, the Abbey Physic Garden, the Georgian Garden at the Fleur, Stonebridge Allotments and the War Memorial Garden in Stone Street, many of these lovingly tended by volunteers.

Garden lovers also had to chance to visit 30 garden related stalls in the Market Place selling plants, flowers, gardening books, food, crafts and vintage artefacts. Stall holders remarked on how friendly the atmosphere was on the day and one admitted they had had their best day's takings that year. A children's competition kept younger garden enthusiasts entertained and many of Faversham's cafes, pubs and restaurants were open, as well as several of the gardens providing teas for their visitors.

For the first time Andy Garland of BBC Radio Kent broadcast the popular Sunday Morning Gardening programme live from several of the participating gardens, interviewing the garden owners on such subjects as making a garden on the builder's rubble of a new build house, and what to plant in long, thin town gardens.

Tickets for the event were on sale in advance from the Faversham Society Visitor Centre and were available on the day from a stall in the market. Over £5,000 was raised which will go towards protecting Faversham's historic buildings and environment.

The 2016 Faversham Open Gardens will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June with some new gardens to visit.

## **Faversham Town Guides - Antony Millett**

This was a very busy year with 24 group bookings in addition to our regular Saturday and Bank Holiday Monday walks. The number of group bookings reflects the attraction of the Magna Carta exhibition. We contributed to the exhibition by providing a walk for all volunteers so that they were in a better position to advertise the town and the Faversham Society. Similarly, we hosted Faversham Business Partnership to enable them to be better ambassadors for us and the town.

Walks were operated for all Best of Faversham Saturdays between February and December and, except in inclement weather, these were well supported and will be continued in 2016.

We liaise with Shepherd Neame and Brogdale to provide visitors with an all-day experience when they visit and we are looking for other ways to attract groups and societies to visit Faversham, and particularly to take a Town Walk. This will be particularly necessary as we will now experience the negative effect of Magna Carta, in that many previous visitors will be visiting other towns for their outings over the next few years, rather than repeating a visit here. Any help that a member can give by mentioning us to their social, sports or special interest club or society would be very gratefully received. If we can help in any way by providing material then please ask.

The walk specifically for members was held on 30<sup>th</sup> December and was well supported. We were hoping that members would bring friends, relatives, house guests etc. to provide some income at a lean time but, in this, we were disappointed. Thank you to all who turned out and for the many interesting pieces of information that possessed as this increases our knowledge.

Sadly, time has caught up with some of our guides and this was the final season for three of them. Margaret Burns has been a stalwart guide for many years and regularly lead the walk on the first Saturday of each month. John Blackford has also been a guide for many years and would have done more had it not been for his commitments as a guide at Canterbury Cathedral. We offer a big thank you to you both of them for their past efforts, and for agreeing to remain on "emergency stand-by". Steve Craddock is also giving up in order to concentrate on his studies



to become a cathedral guide. Thank you for your support and good luck with your future “career”.

We continue to require more volunteers and promise you that it is not as daunting as it seems and is very enjoyable. We do not follow a set script but rather we bring an individual approach to our walk. We have our own particular interests that illustrate the walk, whether it is from a literary, architectural or people direction. The history of our town does not change and there is only so much that can be accommodated in a 1½ hour walk, so there are not masses of facts to learn. If you have the enthusiasm for Faversham and a general knowledge of its history, please join walks with different guides and you will soon begin to feel confident about leading a group and describing things in your own way.

**Our Society Needs You!** (Please contact me, Antony Millett at: [favershamtownwalks@gmail.com](mailto:favershamtownwalks@gmail.com) or on 01795-483289, or talk with any of our guides).

### **Environment Committee - Dr Harold Goodwin**

The new Environment Committee was established by the Board of Trustees in March 2015, with a remit to:

- Look at issues affecting the natural and cultural heritage of Faversham and the surrounding villages and to maintain a watching brief, looking out for both opportunities and threats, in order to identify issues and to engage with them early and proactively;
- Engage our membership and the wider community in discussing and learning about our cultural and natural heritage;
- Establish and maintain close working relationships with other groups with similar interests in the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;
- Undertake a review of the membership and identify those with knowledge, skills or enthusiasm to join with us in our work.

In our first year we focused on issues raised by members which are of strategic importance to the town. One early concern was the controversial painting of yellow lines in the historic town centre, a topic raised by our president, Richard Oldfield. Research by one of our

members found less support from the lines among town traders than had previously been thought, and other members with expertise in urban design and traffic management suggested alternative options. This led to the formation of a Town Working Group to consider wider issues of parking and traffic management and their impact on our environment and heritage.

Plans for large-scale development in and around Faversham have also been of concern. We arranged a site visit to Oare Gravel Works, with particular interest in the heritage buildings and plans for their preservation and use. We reviewed plans for the Front Brents flood defences (the Faversham Bund), the Perry Court development, and the Solar Park proposal on Abbey Fields. We also raised concerns about planning enforcement.

As part of our remit to engage members and the wider public, we organised an event based on Faversham's hopping traditions, in association with the Faversham Food Festival. With a mix of entertainment and learned information, it proved extremely popular.

With Swale Borough Council's draft local plan up for inspection in late 2015, we again packed the Fleur hall with an opportunity for members to find out more about the plan from the head of planning, James Freeman, senior planner Alan Best, and planning committee chairman Bryan Mulhern. It was an informative and very constructive debate. At the subsequent hearings into the plan, although the Society was not formally represented, several Environment Committee members were registered to speak in other capacities, and took the opportunity to support the Council's case for a heritage-led development strategy in Faversham.

Further events are being planned for 2016, including liaison with the Friends of the Westbrook, RSPB and Kent Wildlife Trust to organise activities in association with the Nautical Festival in July.

If you would like to be involved in the work of the committee, please get in touch by contacting the chair [harold@haroldgoodwin.info](mailto:harold@haroldgoodwin.info) or by leaving a message at the Fleur.

### **Faversham Society Planning Committee - Anne Salmon**

The Committee has continued with its work of interacting with Swale Borough Council and other bodies on matters relating to planning and transportation for the Faversham area.

Janet Turner was elected Vice-Chair of the committee in January and also became secretary in March after the retirement of Patsy Rogers after many years.

Janet represented the Faversham Society at the Public Inquiry held at the end of January 2015 resulting from the planning appeal by Shepherd Neame against Swale Borough Council's refusal of planning permission for 63 homes at Brogdale. The appeal was allowed because Swale does not have a 5 year housing land supply in its Local Plan.

Following the Committee's invitation for parish councils to attend if they had planning applications in their villages that they were concerned about, Cllr. Finch of Teynham Parish Council attended the committee at the end of March, when several Teynham applications were discussed.

Two important listed buildings were the subject of applications. There was a scheme to install a lift and toilet for disabled people at the Guildhall and a proposal to alter the south entrance, create a ramp and alter the layout at the west end of St. Mary of Charity church.

The committee objected to the application for development of housing and business use at Perry Court. Janet Turner attended a presentation by the Swale planning officers to Ospringe Parish Council on the subject. Given the lack of a 5-year housing land supply which had been the reason for the Inspector's decision at Brogdale, the scheme was recommended for approval by the Swale planners. The application has not yet been determined by the councillors.

The Examination in Public on the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan took place from 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> October. Several members of the Faversham Society attended wearing a variety of hats, including Anne Salmon supporting the Submission Draft of the Plan. The Inspector's report has not been received as of 31<sup>st</sup> December.

In early October, several members of the committee took part in the consultation held by Natural England on the route of the Coastal Path through Faversham. Anne Salmon brought to their attention the improvements and connections to the path sought in the Faversham creek Streetscape Strategy.

Planning permission has been granted for 350 houses and restoration of the Marsh Gunpowder Works at Ham Road. This is an outline permission with over 50 conditions for the main development but full permission for the works to the listed buildings.

The committee discussed the alteration to the position of the war memorial in Stone Street and laying out of a Remembrance garden with raised plaques and new landscaping.

The committee welcomed the new conservation officer at Swale Borough Council, Simon Algar to its meeting in December. He was previously at Canterbury City Council. We talked to him about a number of important schemes and buildings in the town.

### **Publications and Print Room - Patsy Rogers**

The Print Room has been very busy as usual this year. Over the year we have photocopied 6,752 Newsletters, 600 Annual Reports and 10,734 other sheets of Minutes of Planning and Historical meetings. This is fewer than in previous years because many members have agreed to receive these items 'online'. Also we have photocopied 3,513 other sheets for Museum visitors which included interactive museum sheets for children, bus timetables, leaflets and town maps, many of which were in colour.

During the year we have also photocopied 358 copies of The 'Faversham Papers' book series which are sold in the VIC shop, replacing books which have been sold. This year there was one new book, *PAUPERS IN THE FAMILY* by Wendy Tait Mayfield

The sale of the books and colour leaflets helps to cover the other costs of the Society. It would be useful if more people were familiar with the photocopiers so that the copying work could be shared. If anyone is interested, please see Patsy on Tuesday mornings or Friday afternoons.

### **Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group - Dr Pat Reid**

This year FSARG organised two very different projects. In Preston, a variety of investigations were carried out in completion of our Preston project, 2013-2014. Later in the year, a one-off small project was developed and implemented for the Stonebridge Crossing area; this was

designed to fill the gap between two of our most productive areas, Tanners St (2005-2006) and the Davington Plateau (2010-2012). The archaeology found in these areas ranges across 8,000 years: what about the Crossing area itself?

The Preston completion involved two keyhole pits to investigate anomalies shown on geo resistivity surveys in Preston Grove gardens in 2014. Both revealed surfaces and although one was modern (1950s?), the other was a Tudor yard surface, almost certainly associated with the first

Work at Preston House consisted of two small keyholes as close as possible to the former brick and tile works now buried under concrete in Jewson's yard, to try to date the works more closely. Both pits revealed what seem to be early brickfield workings, maybe related to the building of the original Preston House around 1550.

Two large scale geo-resistivity surveys were carried out on the Football and Cricket grounds to the south of the A2 to see if there was any evidence for Roman Watling St running parallel to the A2, to the South. No such evidence was found, but at least the possibility has been checked.

The two week summer project in the Stonebridge Crossing was not only successful in tracing links but also very enjoyable. This must be one of the most charming spots in all Faversham. We were very fortunate in being given permission to set up base in the Old Forge in Flood Lane. Excavations took place in six gardens and a variety of surveys carried out on open areas. Dark Hill gardens yielded early material - worked flints, early pottery and some sherds of mid-Saxon ware very similar to that found behind the Bull Inn in 2005. Others on the Tanners St side yielded abundant evidence for medieval and post medieval activities and also our first piece of Roman building material in this area - a piece of curved roof tile.

Detailed reports on all this were sent to householders by Christmas 2015 and can also be found on the FSARG website [www.community-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.community-archaeology.org.uk) An article on some of this was published in the winter edition of the Kent Archaeological Society Newsletter.

Great thanks as always to the wonderful people of Faversham who let us into their gardens and help us as much as they can. It is truly a pleasure to work with them.

## **Museum – Heather Wootton**

Firstly a big thanks to all the volunteers for the key work they do over the whole year.

The most important announcement of the year was the attainment of “Accredited Museum” status thanks to the huge effort of Clive Foreman.

We have continued to change displays in the Museum Foyer and window – thanks to Rachel Baynton and Daphne Longfield who enthuse others to contribute ideas too.

We are grateful, again, to Clive Foreman who has arranged several exhibitions in the Gallery based on Museum Archives – *Faversham Families in WW1* and *Protest, Democracy and the Law*, which supplemented the Magna Carta exhibition.

We had an increase in visitor numbers whilst the Magna Carta exhibition was at the Alexander Centre, which brings me on to annual “footfall”, the figure for 2015 being 2,457, a slight increase above the 2,441 for 2014.

Behind the scenes at the Museum we have had much progress this year with the help of Kelly Roots and Grace Hopkins who have read, interpreted and prepared for archive 8 large boxes of Legal Documents, mostly handwritten and dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century onwards, many thanks to you both.

With regard to general and Family History enquiries Rod Morley is the initial contact for these and Linda Parker has established a well organised method of logging the enquiries on the computer.

Paul Moorbath volunteered to become Librarian when Colin Parry left and, whilst we really miss Colin, Paul has admirably stepped into his shoes and is keeping himself busy.

The long term review of all artefacts in the museum is being led by Christine Fagg, who is now over half way through this 3 – 4 year activity.

In May I was elected as Chair of the new Museum Committee. The main task of the Committee is to establish formal and identifiable leadership, management, monitoring and development of the Fleur de Lis Museum

and Chart Mills, and associated archives and libraries, and to act as a point of reference for all Faversham Society museum matters.

One action has been to start a sub-group to manage the Projects (most are listed in the Accreditation documents) and that sub-group has started preparing a Museum Vision paper, the outline of which has been presented at a Trustees' meeting,. This will enable us to gradually improve the current Museum in several ways. I hope all volunteers will want to contribute to this work in due course.

We continue to support both Kent Museums Group and Swale Museums Group.

### **Libraries – Paul Moorbath**

The Faversham Society Reference library housed in the Curators' room has grown by about 50 books since I took over the library from Colin Parry in September. At present there is a desperate shortage of space and the proximity of water from a sink adds to the accommodation difficulties. The Faversham papers have been added to the main data base. It is hoped to catalogue the collection up to recognised international standard and re-arrange it by a standard system as used in public libraries.

The Society is also custodian of the Marlowe Society library. A major project has been to catalogue the collection onto computer using the internationally recognised Library of Congress system which allows searching by subjects and is used by academic libraries such as Kent University and the Shakespeare Centre of Birmingham University. The aim is to re-arrange the collection by subjects using Library of Congress classification. We have recently received 20 cartons of books from Goldsmiths College. These had been stored for the Marlowe Society for some years. They have been processed by Valerie Gidlow.

The Society is also custodian of the Doddington Parish Collection which consists of eighteenth century religious texts. Justin Croft will be looking after these in the future.

### **Bulletin – Paul Moorbath**

The Bulletin is produced monthly and is circulated by email to volunteers in the Fleur but there are a few hard copies for collection from the VIC counter and a few displayed. It started in December 2014.

It contains a listing of meetings and information of use to those working in the Fleur e.g. new computers and safety issues, rotas, calls for help and volunteers for assisting in running events and hopefully longer term planning.

It is hoped to be a forum for information about the society and a forum for discussion. It can only be as comprehensive as the information received. The aim is to improve communication.

### **Museum and Gallery Volunteers - Joanne Wintle Smith**

The pattern of the past few years has continued through 2015 as changes to the Volunteer Team continue to take place. While in the main the team remained reasonably stable, there were of course retirements and departures. Some, sadly, due to ill health, but also others moving to pastures new, including our stalwart History Graduate of three years who secured paid employment. However, yet again our luck holds, and there are a number of new faces around in the capacity of both stewards and receptionists. As ever though, even more volunteers would be most welcome.

Enrichment to the Society's workforce have continued throughout the year in the form of 6<sup>th</sup> form students from local schools who could frequently be found in the museum either as regular volunteers or on short term work experience placements. In addition to these students we have also been pleased to accommodate a young man from the Abbey School Autistic Unit. My thanks go to those volunteers who spend much hands-on time with all these students. The enthusiasm, energy and new ideas from these young people continues to be a source of stimulation to the team and our activities.

Regular monthly Team meetings have continued throughout the year and remain a valuable forum as an effective means of communication, for the update and exchange of information and for staff development. Work has also continued towards the adoption of a more professional, focussed, proactive and specific volunteer recruitment policy; to the improvement of the induction process; and to an increased use of volunteer agreements, all with the purpose of enabling and encouraging volunteers to perform well and enjoy their time helping the Society to fulfil its aims.



The Museum window continues to, regularly and frequently, catch the attention of passers-by. The displays are designed to share not only our 'hidden treasures' but also to reflect seasonal events both local, such as the Transport and Open House weekends, and festivals such as Christmas and Easter and are the work of two dedicated volunteers to whom we are indebted.

Of course the Society's greatest asset of all, our volunteers, continue to ensure the Museum and Gallery are fully staffed and ready to welcome visitors throughout the year. This ongoing level of commitment and dedication deserves much more than words. Nevertheless, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude personally and on behalf of the Society for all their hard work.

### **Chart Gunpowder Mills - Rod Morley**

Another successful year with visitor numbers slightly down at 1004. The addition of two new volunteers has allowed us to open throughout the season. Further practical help has smartened up the building via simple maintenance and decoration. More substantial maintenance is being carried out in January by Swale Borough Council, who have this responsibility. They have also promised an electrical safety survey.

John Breeze has continued to update our extensive family history archive.

Considerable effort has been put into planning the commemoration of the Great Explosion at Uplees on 2nd April 1916. Faversham Town Council will coordinate events, such as a service at the Love Lane Mass Grave. The Society will run an exhibition in our Gallery and the Parish Church have already produced a DVD showing the effect of the tragedy on the town.

### **Fleur Gallery - Brian Wintle-Smith**

I am repeating myself I know but I make no apology for saying "I believe it has been another successful year for the Fleur Gallery".

Nine different exhibitors, mostly those displaying their own art work, and, as usual, the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School students, who exhibited their excellent course work, have occupied the gallery during this past year. The Society presented three exhibitions, which included work by Jack Salmon, one of our founder members who sadly died in 2014, *Faversham Families in WW1*, (both mounted by Clive Foreman) and *A Hop, A Skip and A Jump - memories of childhood* mounted by Rachel Baynton; the latter included many items from our cellars and attics.

As in previous years the exhibitions have been so varied that comparing visitor numbers month on month serves little purpose. However, an examination of the overall figures can at least tell us if 'hiring out' the gallery is a worthwhile exercise.

In 2013 we attracted 4,187 visitors, in 2014 a total of 4,516, 2015 has seen the overall level maintained with 4,381 souls crossing our threshold. How many of these were sufficiently intrigued by the ever open Gunpowder Story room door, our loss leader, to then visit the main Museum we cannot tell but we know it happens.

More significantly, in my view, of those 4,381 sufficient numbers purchased jewellery, paintings, prints and cards etc. resulting in an income to the Society of just over £1,300.00.

Worthwhile ?, I think so.

### **Maison Dieu – Anne Wilkinson**

Following the 2014 English Heritage Future Development meeting two review meetings with Maison Dieu Trustees were undertaken in 2015. The initial meeting was with Brian Smith, the newly appointed English Heritage SE Estates Surveyor in March. In September he was accompanied by Roy Porter, English Heritage SE Buildings Surveyor and Rowena Willard –Wright, English Heritage SE Curator.

These meetings have re-introduced the need to revise the Local Management Agreement with English Heritage. This had been initiated by MD Trustees between 2010 and 2012 but put on hold during the re-organisation of English Heritage. At the March meeting a draft revision of a tripartite agreement between English Heritage, the Faversham Society and the Maison Dieu Museum Trust was made available for consideration. The Trustee members of both the Faversham Society and

the Maison Dieu Museum Trust have been in discussions on issues raised by this draft document with respect to present day responsibilities for both the Maison Dieu museum and the Stone Chapel site in preparation for a LMA review in which legal matters will be discussed.

With Maison Dieu Trustee time taken up with future development, a decision was reached to concentrate on fulfilling the commitment this year to keep the museum open to visitors. The long term sick leave of the Hon. Curator added demands on Trustees' responsibilities, particularly supporting our dwindling numbers of loyal stewards in their essential role. However, the visitor numbers over this season were not seriously affected and we also accommodated two large group visits for a museum talk, walk and tea in local gardens. No other social or fund-raising events were possible during the year which is concerning. Recruitment of volunteers is also slow.

The good news is that the Maison Dieu Annual Lecture was again held at the Maison Dieu building this October with a full attendance to hear Dr. Paul Wilkinson, FRSA MifA, who was the lead archaeologist for the Evaluation Excavation undertaken in September 2013 on the former medieval Hospital site, then owned by Miss Hilary Barkaway and her mother. We were pleased to welcome Hilary to the lecture and supper as our guest and thank her for their generous donation of all the material from the excavation to the Maison Dieu museum.

The preparation of this material in order to compile a museum catalogue has been the priority of the two curator team members this year. A small display of the masonry items from the Barkaway excavation was made in the entrance hall of the museum for this season. The new material was also under discussion with members of the English Heritage SE Curator team during an annual meeting in August. An agreement was reached that future joint planning for displays of the 1977 excavation material from the former hospital, which is on permanent loan to the Maison Dieu, should aim to include items from this new collection to extend visitor knowledge across the whole former medieval site.

The relationship formed with members of the University of Kent Archaeology Department following the visit of Dan Simpson, Poet Laureate for Canterbury, to the Maison Dieu as part of Dan's Roman

Way project in 2014, were maintained during 2015 and in November three students came to discuss with the Hon. Curator the possibility of internships at the museum during the 2016 season- an exciting educational prospect for museum development.

### **Boxing Day Walk - Pat Ross**

Once again, we were very lucky with the weather this year when we set off on our 5 mile walk on Boxing Day around Oare and Faversham Creeks. So congratulations to all those who dragged themselves out of bed the day after Xmas, and thank you for supporting the walk. Afterwards we returned to the Fleur Hall for lunch. Our thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes this year - we had a lovely selection. This year's quiz was history questions based on the Faversham Paper *1000 years of Faversham History*.

Thank you to everyone back at the hall who helped prepare the lunch. Thanks also to Paul Moor bath, who has organised our raffle now for many years but was unable to make it this year. Finally, can I thank Sue Davidson for her hard work over the years since the Boxing Day Walks first began. She has now decided to retire from the event, and her assistance will be greatly missed.

However, fear not! We will be having a walk next year – not least because I was able to buy eight Xmas tablecloths for under £4 in a sale after Xmas!

### **The Fleur Singers - Sue Davidson and Janet Killian**

The Fleur Singers continue to meet twice a month in the Fleur Hall. We have singers of all capabilities (men, altos and sopranos) and are led by Andrew Mussett. Much fun, frivolity, music and song ensue, with hot drinks, cakes and biscuits etc at the midway point. We charge £3 per person per session, which raises a tidy sum for the Society. All are welcome (members and non members). Thanks too to Adrian Bawtree and Griselda Mussett for all their encouragement.

## **Who's Who - 2015**

### **Appointed officers:**

**Finance committee:** Alistair Mackay-Miller (chairman), Brian Kelsey, Mike Frohnsdorff, Jan West, Brian Wintle-Smith, Ted Davis, Clive Foreman

**Manager, Fleur de Lis:** Christine Smith

**Grants officer:** Margaret Slythe, MA, FCILIP, PGCE

**Editor, newsletter:** Stephen Rayner

**Editor, annual report:** Clive Foreman

**Organiser, Open House:** Moyra Harding

**Membership secretary:** Ian Balding (until August)  
Jasmine Patience (from September)

**Editor, Faversham Papers:** Clive Foreman

**Director, Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group:**  
Dr Patricia Reid BA (Hons), MA (Ed), M. Research

**Print manager:** Patsy Rogers BMus, MA

**Warden, Stone Chapel:** Clive Foreman

**Organiser, Secret Gardens:** Alexandra Iron

**Fleur hall bookings officer:** Linda Ireland

**Gardeners:** Chris Oswald-Jones and Daphne Longfield

### **Museum, Archive and Library staff**

**Museum Mentor (curatorial adviser):**  
John Harrison, MSc, AMA

**Museum Committee** Heather Wootton (chair), Clive Foreman (Vice-chair), Daphne Longfield, John Owen, Paul Moorbath, Colin Parry, Mike Nicholls, Jan West, Dr Pat Reid, Catherine Turner, Mike Frohnsdorff, David Slarks, Rachel Baynton, John Harrison, John Robertson, Joanne Wintle-Smith, Brian Wintle-Smith, Rod Morley, Ann Wilkinson and Christine Fagg.

**Librarian (including Doddington Parochial Library):**

Colin Parry (until September)  
Paul Moorbath (from October)

**Assistant librarian:** Valerie Gidlow

**Assistant curators:** Rod Morley B.Sc, Daphne Longfield

**Museum administrators:** Daphne Longfield, Jan West

**Costumes:** Jennifer Shipman

**Archives and computer data:**

Heather Wootton

**Subsidiary archives** Catherine Turner

**Artefacts supervisor:** Christine Fagg

**Artefacts assistants:** Christine Pocock, Richard Adkins, David Fagg and  
Chris Wootton

**Archive assistants/researchers**

Linda Parker, Kelly Roots, Laura Mynott and  
Grace Hopkins

**Photographic archive:** John Robertson

**Gallery co-ordinator:** Brian Wintle-Smith

**Museum and Gallery Volunteers Co-ordinator:**  
Joanne Wintle-Smith

**Telephone engineer:** David Slarks

**Maps and electrical engineer:**

Mike Nicholls

**Audio-visual artefacts collection:**

John Robertson

**Museum / Gallery Volunteers:**

Helen Albery, Barbara Babbage, Barbara Barron,  
Rachel Baynton, David Bone, Jane Bone,  
Sheila Breeze, John Breeze, Rob Brewer,  
Carolynne Brightman, Hannah Chalker, Ray Churnside,  
Judith Clarke, Gill Connolly, Ann Dale,  
Jackie Davidson, Isobel Downie, Jean Duchin,  
Glennys Evans, Jean Foreman, Martyn Fuller,

Diane Furneaux, Paul Harvey, Imogen Hepworth, Grace Hopkins, Tim Hopper, Linda Ireland, Cali Jeferies, Jim Kilcoyne, Linda Macklin, June McIntyre, Antony Millett, Hilary Morley, Rod Morley, David Palmer, Shirley Parry, Beryl Pleasance, Kelly Roots, Jay Scaggs, Ted Seal, Diane Skinner, David Slarks, Alan Swan, Philip Tooker, Julia Vellam, Barry Wagstaff, Chris Warburton, Graham Warner, Susan White, Gill Winters, Brian Wintle-Smith and Joanne Wintle-Smith

**Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group:**

John Clarkstone (Chair), Ron Elsey, Carole Manderville, Keith Robinson, Ann and Nick Wilkinson, Heather and Chris Wootton, Mike Tillman.

**Property Maintenance:**

Jean Yeomans, Jan West, Mike Nicholls, Rene and Sid Stringer, Chris Oswald Jones, Daphne Longfield and Barry Wagstaff.

**Environment Committee**

Harold Goodwin (Chairman) Brenda Chester, Roger Ely, Michael Frohnsdorff, Guilliver Immink, Chris Oswald-Jones, Nigel Manouch, Tim Stonor, Hilary Whelan, Susan White, and Chris Wright

**Planning committee**

Anne Salmon (chairman), Janet Turner (Vice Chairman and Secretary), Nigel Mannouch, Jean Foreman (part year), Shiel Campbell (part year), Chris Oswald-Jones, Susan White, Roger Ely and Mike Frohnsdorff.

**Marketing committee:**

Jan West (chairman), Pamela McLean, Ian Balding, Christine Smith, Moyra Harding, Joanne Wintle Smith, Brian Wintle Smith, Alexandra Iron, Antony Millett, Mike Frohnsdorff and Chris Wootton

**Operation Management Committee:**

Joanne Wintle-Smith (Chair), Mike Frohnsdorff, Ann Wilkinson, Ian Balding, Clive Foreman, Jenny Parry, Christine Smith, Jan West, Heather Wootton and Brian Wintle Smith.

**IT Support Group**

Mike Frohnsdorff (Chairman), Graham Robinson, Heather Wootton, Chris Wootton, Jackie Davidson, Jasmine Patience, Lucia Manchini, Paul Moorpath and Alan Wood.

Supporters/ User consultants: David Slarks, Ian Balding and Barry Wagstaff.

**Town heritage walks:**

Antony Millett, Steve Bartholomew, John Blackford,

Margaret Burns, Sheila Clark, Steve Craddock, Peter Halsey, Jim Ransom, Pat Ross, Mike Taylor, Ann Wilkinson, Colin Alderman, Nuala Brenchley-Sayers, Peter Lock and Barbara Babbage.

Guides under training: Jayne Bartholomew, Lizzie Eyre, Paul Gower and Billy Tipple.

**VIC shop assistants:**

Christine Smith (manager), Pat Blackford, Pam Boorman, Jean Bushell, Martin Collins, Irene Connor, Ann Croydon, Sue Davidson, Jean Duchin, Val Golding, Peter Halsey, Anne Jones, Janet Killian, Peter Landon, Sarah Lipscombe, Pam McLean, Penny Newell, Mary Ransom, Patsy Rogers, Patricia Ross, Audrey Sanderson, Judy Smith, Caroline Stevens, Rene Stringer, Denise Turner, Marian Walton, Pamela Willison, Gill Woodlock, Linda Ireland, Dawn Kelle, Lucia Marchini, Sally Fancourt, Sheila Hulks, Jean Yeomans, Christopher Brooke-Taylor, Judith Clarke, Jasmine Patience, David Jones, Angela Mitchell, Sue Taylor, Ann Morgan, Jackie Davidson, Wilna Bing, Linda Cronk, Rob Brewer, Kelly Roots, Patricia Thompson, and Sheila Gibbins.

**Chart Mills:**

Curator post vacant.

Rod Morley (rota organiser), John Breeze, Dave Fagg, Richard Meade, John & Caroline Stockley, Richard Paris-Piper, Chris Wootton, Phil Tooker, David Palmer, Tony Golding, Geoff Rayner and Peter Landon

**Secondhand Bookshop Team**

Ann Ashton, Liz Austin, Pam Boorman, Wendy Clark, Laura Coniam, Sue Davidson, Janis Dixon, Genevieve Ellis, Pam Fray, Tim Fletcher, June Koshita, Linda Ireland, Joyce Lawless, Daphne Longfield, Christina Montzmir, Roy Morton, Anthea Nicholls, Linda Nolan, John O'Kill, Jenny Parry, Shirley Parry, Hester Peters, Beryl Pleasance, Colin Simmonds, Diane Skinner, David Slarks, Julia Vellum, Susan White, Gillian Wilce, Pamela Willison and Richard Parris-Piper.

**Newsletter organisers:**

Pippa Poulteney (until June), Walter Waller (from July), Jasmine Patience, Patsy Rogers, Peter Halsey, Sheila Hulks, Martin Collins, Anne Jones, Ann Morgan and Ann Croyden

**Newsletter distributors:**

Pam Boorman, Mr Brookman, Janice Burr, Jean Bushell, Mary Clarke, Martin Collins, Stephen Craddock, Ann Jones, David Irons, Linda Cronk, Genevieve Ellis, Rev Penny Fenton,



Ray Godfrey, Jane Hannath, David Iron,  
Eric Kempster, Rod Morley, Mike Nicholls,  
Nigel Mannouch, Pippa Poultney, Sandy Rogers,  
Anne Saddleton, Audrey Sanderson, Colin Simonds,  
Caroline Stockley, Marian Walton, Jessie Wilbourn,  
Pamela Willison, Anthea Nicholls, Walter Waller,  
Chris Warburton and Susan White.

**Maison Dieu Stewards:**

Angelina Barry, Dick Frier, Margaret Burns,  
Rev. Penny Fenton, Pauline Miles  
Ray and Ann Godfrey, Albert Mulford,  
Lesley Shea, Peter and Ann Saddleton,  
Paul Moorbath, John and Gene Regan,  
Marnie Tennant, Graham and Stephanie Peter,  
Margaret Slythe, Nick and Ann Wilkinson

**Faversham Society Faversham Open Gardens & Market Day:**

Alexandra Campbell, Fern Alder, Val Honyben, Jane  
Hannath, Julie Holbrook, Sarah Langton-Lockton,  
Amanda Mannering and Lucie Neame.

**Maison Dieu**

**Curatorial Support**

Margaret Slythe (Hon. Archivist, Fund Raiser and  
Advisor), Miss P. Houghton, (Collections Cataloguer  
and Collections care) Nick Wilkinson, (Events Co-  
ordinator), Key holder Dick Frier, Gene Regan and Ann  
Wilkinson

**Stewards**

Angelina Barry, Dick Frier, Margaret Burns, Rev. Penny  
Fenton, Pauline Miles, Ray and Ann Godfrey, Lesley  
Shea, Paul Moorbath, John and Gene Regan, Marnie  
Tennant, Graham and Stephanie Peter, Margaret  
Slythe, Nick and Ann Wilkinson, Cathy Scarlett and  
Harold Fischer.

